









LOW-FLOW TOILETS > LIQUID MEMBRANES > ASPHALT SHINGLES > COST-SAVING FINISHES > PULL-DOWN FAUCETS > CIRCULAR SAWS > WINDOWS

## BULDING PRODUCTS

WWW.EBUILD.COM



## BATH PRODUCTS









- American Standard. The FloWise line of high-efficiency toilets is WaterSense-certified to use 1.28 gpf. The toilets' Champion 4 flushing technology uses a funnel-shaped piston-action Accelerator Flush valve that forces the water to accelerate as it enters the bowl, leaving bowls clean with fewer clogs. FloWise systems are available for most of the company's bathroom collections, including Town Square, Boulevard, Tropic, and Cadet (shown), in one- or two-piece options, with elongated bowls and Right Height sizes. 800.442.1902.
- Caroma. With dual flush options of 1.28 gallons for solid waste and 0.8 for liquids, the Sydney Smart 305 toilet offers an average flush rate of 0.9 gpf, making it one of the lowest-consumption HETs on the market, the firm says. The one-piece unit features modern styling and a 16 ½-inch Easy Height bowl. Round and elongated options are available. 800.605.4218. www.caromausa.com. Circle 183.
- 3 Mansfield. With jet and hydraulic enhancements and a 3-inch hybrid flush valve, the Alto uses 1.28 gallons of water to deliver faster tank-emptying rates and better flush performance, says the manufacturer. The pilot-operated fill valve provides consistent shut off. The Alto is WaterSense certified and available in rounded and elongated fronts in white, bone, or biscuit finishes. 877.850.3060. www.mansfieldplumbing.com. Circle 184.
- Sterling. The Rockton (shown) and Karsten toilets' Dual Force flushing technology uses 1.6 gpf for solid waste and 0.8 gpf for light waste. The WaterSense-certified toilet is made of vitreous china with glossy finish in three color options—white, biscuit, and almond—with a two-button actuator for easy-to-use flushing. 800.783.7546. www.sterlingplumbing.com. Circle 185.

)) as 1.28, 1.0, or, in the case of Niagara's new Stealth model, 0.8 gpf.

Further advancing the cause was the introduction of the EPA's WaterSense standard, which provides third-party assurance that high-efficiency toilets (HETs) use 1.28 gallons or less per flush or that dual-flush toilets, which offer separate flushing options for liquid and solid waste, average 1.28 gpf.

But most important to users, WaterSensequalified toilets also must be able to dispose of solid waste of 350 grams or more in a single flush in four of five attempts.

Methods for meeting lower flows vary. Pressureassist mechanisms were some of the first and most reliable options for adding oomph to the flush, but now that suppliers have had time to re-work entire systems, many traditional flush mechanisms work just as well.

"One thing that's happened is manufacturers have

become better and more expert at forming the bowls—shaping the trapways, using comparative modeling techniques to understand water flows," says Gerber senior product manager Michael Rosen. "That's helped a lot."

Among the strategies are smoother bowls and adjusted shapes and inlets to reduce friction points, tanks with larger openings or other re-engineered mechanisms to get the water out faster, and altered flow paths to move water and waste more effectively and help keep the bowl clean.

WaterSense-labeled toilets require no special installation or changes to the home's plumbing (although builders should educate homeowners about how to use dual-flush units). Though some wonder if low-flow toilets could reduce force enough to clog home or sewer system drains, representatives from the

Mechanica required 29
While toiletsconser been c convin

To see more lowflow toilets, go to http://go.hw.net/ BP-WaterSavers International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials say that the coderequired 2% slope is adequate.

While the major hurdle with low-flow toilets—designing products that conserve without sacrifice—has largely been cleared, the challenge now lies in convincing consumers that "low-flow" is no longer a phrase to be feared. WaterSense is helping significantly, both for its certification assurance and the EPA's efforts to educate the public.

"[Pros] need to help us sell this,"
Zimmerman notes. "They need to sell it with
confidence: that these products work well, that what
I'm doing as a builder is to help you reduce the cost
of operating your home." –Katy Tomasulo. This story
first appeared in ΕcoΗομε magazine.

20 | FALL 2011 | BUILDING PRODUCTS WWW.EBUILD.COM